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U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

Woman's Central Association of Relief,

10 Cooper Union, Third Avenue.

OPERATIONS OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

AT

BEAUFORT AND MORRIS ISLAND.

NEW YORK, Sept. 17, 1863.

For the information of our contributors, we have made the following extracts from late letters received from Dr. M. M. Marsh, U. S. Sanitary Commission Inspector at Beaufort and Morris Island. Dr. Marsh has been most ably assisted by his wife, who, whilst her husband has been at Morris Island, has fully attended to the requisitions of eleven different hospitals at Port Royal and Morris Island. We have added to the above a list of the goods sent to Dr. Marsh since August 1st, 1863. Most of these, except the vegetables, were furnished by this office, from the contributions of our correspondents. To show how faithfully these have been given to the men, and how nobly the benevolence of our people has been represented by Dr. Marsh, we give also the testimony of the correspondent of a Boston paper, and that of Gen. Gillmore.

* * * * "A soldier from the 115th New York, sent here on business, inquired 'if they ever paid money here.' To my reply that everything was gratuitous, he answered, 'Oh yes, I know that; I have never needed anything myself, but I have seen others made so comfortable through your aid, that I want to give a little something to be expended for somebody,' and laying down one dollar, insisted that it should be thus appropriated. Not only are the material wants of the soldier met by the liberal gifts of your contributors, but they encourage him in the belief that he is not forgotten in his toils; the same aid from government would not count half so much. It does not hurt soldiers to remind them that the poor, as well as the rich, are the contributors; that their own mothers and sisters are engaged in the holy work of preparing these gifts. Many an eye moistens at the thought of this link which binds the battle-field to the home." * *

* * * "Would that you could see the enthusiasm of our soldiers; not only no murmurings, but each man feels that he is to walk the streets of Charleston. To illustrate this, a few days ago, as I was assisting in the hospitals, as I frequently do, when help is short, five men were brought in from the trenches, all requiring important operations; after the left arm of a private in the engineers was removed, he, recovering partially from the effects of the chloroform, inquired how soon he could walk around? I said very soon, as you seem rugged; then, raising the remaining arm, he said, 'Thank God I have a right arm for Charleston.'

"If a call were made for volunteers for the most deadly enterprise, so many would offer that a selection would have to be made.

* * * * "I see that you have sent with the invoice

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EXCHANGE

of ice, some eggs, butter, lemons, fresh tomatoes, and fresh apples; these articles, however desirable, do not get here in a condition fit to be of service. Cologne water, bay rum, &c., may frequently be desirable, but the money they cost can benefit the army more, and the rank and file, whose servants we are, and to whom we minister, do not expect these things; but your curried cabbage, potatoes, onions, crackers, &c., &c., throw wide open the gates of Heaven to you, if, indeed, blessings can open those blissful portals. The soldiers say, 'If you give us such things, we will give you Charleston;' and they will do it."

ARTICLES SHIPPED TO DR. MARSH SINCE AUGUST 1ST, 1863.

96 bottles Porter.	97 barrels Onions.
96 " Ale.	121 " Potatoes.
324 " Blackberry Cordial.	105 barrels Boston Crackers.
243 " Whiskey.	25 " Sugar.
281 " Brandy.	14 bowls Jelly.
24 " Rhine Wine.	23 jars "
24 " Bordeaux.	10 cases "
72 " Port Wine.	8 bottles Bay Rum.
72 " Sherry Wine.	3 boxes Lemons.
54 " Raspberry Vinegar.	4 barrels Green Apples.
442 " Extract of Ginger.	6 " Dried Apples.
22 gallons " "	3 " Dried Fruit.
521 " Vinegar.	6 " Pickles.
28 bottles Cologne.	14 kegs "
2251 lbs. Beef Stock.	1 tub "
768 " Condensed Milk.	1 keg Tamarinds.
7064 gallons Curried Cabbage.	3 " Sweetmeats.
156 cans Tomatoes.	1 box Cod Fish.
100 lbs. Chocolate.	2 lbs. Burg. Pitch.
129 " Oatmeal.	2 " Glue.
536 cans Lemonade.	2 " Rosin.
240 lbs. Farina.	2 " Gum Arabic.
288 " Corn Starch.	66 " Soap.
72 " Broma.	5 " Candles.
80 " Cocoa.	4 dozen Combs.

24 Sponges.	910 pairs Slippers.
7 Hair Brushes.	542 papers Tobacco.
1 pair Shears.	500 Tin Pint Cups.
1 box Stationery.	500 Spoons.
6 barrels Old Linen.	200 Tin Plates.
9 " Cotton Pieces.	200 " Pans.
3 " Bandages.	24 Metal Bed Pans.
4 " Lint.	24 Porcelain Urinals.
240 Fans.	1 gross Bottle Corks.
7469 articles of Clothing.	1 box Pipes.
1850 " of Bedding.	200 tons of Ice, in two shipments.

OFF CHARLESTON, Aug. 9.

Yesterday afternoon our batteries and gunboats kept up a terrific bombardment of the rebel works for several hours. From the reports we judged the heaviest guns were being used. Fort Johnston, Fort Sumter, and Battery Gregg responded occasionally. The rebels have of late renewed their practice of sending heavy shells away up the Island, above the observatory ; but they do no damage ; nor will they hurt us to any extent if they fire that way constantly, for the distance is too great.

The Arago will sail for New York to-morrow, carrying more passengers than usual.

It is but just that I should notice, in connection with accounts of military affairs in this department, the operations of the Sanitary Commission here, under direction of its able and efficient manager, Dr. M. M. Marsh. I regret that some correspondents have either entirely ignored its presence, or declined awarding to it the high meed of praise to which the unremitting and indefatigable exertions of its agents, both in camp and upon the field of battle, have so eminently entitled it. I cannot, however, do better than give you facts, which speak for it in abler and more potent language than I can command.

The exertions of its agents for the preservation of the health of our troops during their almost superhuman labors in the trenches upon Morris and Folly Islands, as well as their timely and efficient aid in promoting the comfort of our sick and wounded during and after the engagements, form a theme of praise to which I confess the incompetency of my pen to do justice; but, if the securing of an abundance of necessary supplies, and a liberal distribution of them at each and every point where they were absolutely indispensable, constitute an element of success in the working of a relief association, these gentlemen have certainly demonstrated not only the wisdom of the plans of the Sanitary Commission, but the pre-eminent success of their practical working upon the fields and in the camps throughout this entire campaign.

At daybreak on the morning of July 10th the U. S. brig *Dragon* dropped anchor off Stono Inlet, and the red flag of the Commission at her masthead announced the arrival of sanitary stores. A few hours sufficed to take her in and disembark the necessaries required for the new hospital just established on the western shore of Folly Island. The Doctor, with one assistant, immediately reported for duty; and, as the ambulances, teams, and stretchers, each loaded to its utmost capacity, poured in from the front (the surgeons being all busy at the tables), the task of unloading the wounded and carrying them to the tables for surgical attention, as well as their removal to tents after the dressing of their wounds, devolved, by tacit consent, upon the gentlemen of this Commission; the cleaning, clothing, and feeding of the sufferers formed a later and no inconsiderable part of their labors; and when, upon the following day, the first charge upon "*Wagner*" necessitated the removal of those whose wounds had already received attention, to make

room for others, their reloading into ambulances and transportation to the hospital steamer again became the work of these gentlemen.

I hazard little in expressing the opinion that rarely, if ever, has the same amount of *such* labor been so carefully performed with less suffering to the patients, without the aid of largely increased means; and never upon any similar occasion have the efforts of any relief agents received a more cordial and hearty support from the medical authorities, or a more grateful appreciation from the men themselves. With the despatch of the first boat load of wounded, we, for a time, lost sight of the Commission; but, upon my arrival at Morris Island the following day, I soon met its agents again, all busy in arranging their stores and making ready for the prompt discharge of the melancholy duties which subsequently devolved upon them. It was here, for the first time, that I noticed with pleasure a new feature in their work. I learned, upon inquiry, that notwithstanding the incessant labors of the Quartermasters' and Commissary Departments, the supplies of rations were exhausted, and the men at the front were almost destitute of food. In this emergency Dr. Marsh presents himself, and, acting upon his theory that a well-filled stomach was essential to the prevention of disease during incessant and severe labors, requested the commander of each detachment of men in the trenches, and the advance batteries, to report the number of his command and apply at the sanitary tents for a supply of beef stock, tea, and crackers.

These articles were promptly supplied in quantities sufficient to relieve immediate wants, and many was the poor fellow that then partook with a grateful heart of the luxury of a good meal for the first time in several days.

No faithful record of the services of these gentlemen upon the ever memorable night of the 18th of July ever has or ever can be written. They seemed ubiquitous upon the field, removing the wounded, burying the dead, or staying the life-current where the bright red stain from a severed artery upon the white sands of the beach betokened its speedy ebb; and at the post hospital aiding in the operations, and up the dock receiving and disposing of the poor fellows as they were hurried on board, they seemed everywhere present.

All and every man were loud in their praise, and by none were their services more highly appreciated than the medical faculty with whom they worked hand in hand, and who, from skilled experience upon such occasions, were best competent to estimate the value of their services.

The following order, which will explain itself, has been issued by the commanding general:

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., September 9.

General Orders, No. 73.

The Brigadier-General commanding desires to make this public acknowledgment of the benefits for which his command has been indebted to the United States Sanitary Commission, and to express his thanks to the gentlemen whose humane efforts, in procuring and distributing much-needed articles of comfort, have so materially alleviated the sufferings of the soldiers.

Especial gratitude is due to Dr. M. M. Marsh, medical inspector of the Commission, through whose efficiency, energy, and zeal the wants of the troops have been promptly ascer-



tained, and the resources of the Commission made available for every portion of the army.

By order of

Brigadier-General Q. A. GILLMORE.

Ed. W. Smith, Assistant-Adjutant-General.

Official: Israel S. Sealy, Captain Forty-seventh New York Volunteers, Acting Assistant-Adjutant-General.

